



Meeting of

Maldon & Blackwater Estuary Coastal Community Team



Meeting Notes

Thursday 19th January 2017, Goldhanger Village Hall, Head Street, Goldhanger

Meeting attendees:

Anthony Sinclair	AS	Friends of Heybridge Lakes
Ben Brown	BB	Maldon District Council
Cllr Adrian Fluker	AF	Maldon District Council
Cllr Andrew St Joseph	ASJ	Maldon District Council – CCT Vice Chairman
Cllr Ron Pratt	RP	Maldon District Council
David Gibson	DG	Thames Sailing Barge Trust
David Smart	DS	Essex Waterways Ltd
John Oatham	JO	Mayland Parish Council
Jon Howarth	JH	Maldon Harbour Improvement Commissioners
Julia Bourn	JB	Goldhanger Parish Council
Julien Goldie	JG	Tollesbury Marina
Lyndon March	LM	Heritage Marine Foundation
Michael Edwards	ME	Heybridge Parish Council
Nicky Spurr	NS	Essex County Council
Paul Haworth	PH	Dengie Hundred Bus Users' Group
Paul Jeffries	PJ	Top Sail Charters – CCT Chairman
Roy Chandler	RC	Essex Waterways Ltd
Russell Everard	RGE	Maldon District Council

1. Welcome, Apologies & Introductions

- Apologies were received from Suzanne Harris, Clare Cadman, Richard Holmes, Mike Sandison, Phil Sturges, Paula Chapman, Cllr Penny Channer, Marian Elsdon, Lew Schnurr & Belinda Worsley.
- JB welcomed the CCT to Goldhanger, saying that the village name had been linked to the marigold. There were some 500 dwellings and one public house. The village was close to the sea wall, where there were remnants of Red Hills dating back to Roman times. Maldon Salt had a site close by, as did Tiptree Jam. There was limited parking for visitors, but the Parish Council was hoping to get 3 new parking bays in Fish Street. Leasing land for parking may be an option.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

- There were no conflicts of interest.

3. Notes and Actions from previous meeting

- Covered in the agenda items.

4. Feedback from Joint Meeting with River Crouch CCT

- PJ reported that the CCTs had met prior to Christmas. The meeting had been well attended by Management Team members from both teams and had been a great way of sharing ideas and best practice. Need to keep in mind the likely competition for future grant funding. PJ also commented that the District Council's Sense of Place project

was, in his view, helping to build a strong brand for the District.

5. Historic Waterfront Revival – Update

- BB stated updated the Team on progress being made on the project, what was part of the Maldon Central Area Action Plan (CAAP). The CAAP, which was being considered by Members that evening, would give direction for developments over the next 10-15 years. The Historic Waterfront Revival was part of that Plan. The Council was keen to progress work on and under its ownership. There were 6 projects designed to develop attractions and the overall tourist offer. St Mary's Church was also looking for a sustainable future for their site in Church Street, Maldon.
- Consultants had been appointed, with a brief of identifying the best use of the waterfront, and dates for meetings with interested parties would be released shortly. It was proposed to involve everyone in the consultation process, which would run for 6-8 weeks. The outcome of the consultation process will be a policy document, and other projects would likely follow.
- JH had already submitted comments MHIC to Members, and BB and AF were keen to get everyone engaged in the process.
- BB also confirmed that the Dengie Gateway Project had been extended to the end of March 2017.

Actions:

- BB to circulate copies of the consultation document, as soon as it becomes available.

6. Economic Impact of Tourism – 2015 Results

BB shared details of the 2015 independent report on the Economic Impact of Tourism on the Maldon District. A copy of the report was circulated at the meeting.

7. Heybridge Gravel Pits

- PJ reminded the meeting that the CCT had adopted the Heybridge Gravel Pits as a project, but had yet to engage in conversation with the landowner. He was also aware that a planning application for that site was still current.

Actions:

- PJ to contact the site landowner after the appeal deadline has passed.

8. Visitor Accommodation

- The meeting noted that overnight stays had dropped in 2015, despite visitors finding it difficult to locate accommodation. PJ drew the attention of the team to alternative visitor accommodation such as the *Warm Shower* scheme for touring cyclists, and *Air B&B*. JG shared details of a recent business trip to Brest, France, where details of all local accommodation were very easy to locate. JG was also progressing the *Bed-on-Board* offer for his Marina.
- BB stated that the District's tourist website also carried information of accommodation which registered on the site. ASJ commented that landowners would be probably be able to provide basic accommodation as long as visitors didn't interfere with their business activity.
- NS suggested that LEADER funding could be available for projects associated with accommodation.

Actions:

- CCT Members to share ideas at future meetings.
- RGE to obtain details of B&B utilisation for the District.

9. Skills Training Project update

- PJ introduced Lyndon March from the Heritage Marine Foundation. LM explained how the HMF was developed from the Cutty Sark project, where concern had been expressed about the aging workforce engaged in the maritime industry. The Foundation had put together a bid to the Lottery Fund for 8-10 tailor made apprenticeships lasting 3 years, following an NVQ route. Time would be spent at sea, and each would develop a range of skills with an opportunity to specialise. Their preferred location would be Downs Road, Maldon, on a site which could expand subject to demand. They are working with Colchester Institute with a view to them becoming the course provider, with the cohort being made up of young people and ex-military service members.
- The CCT expressed its support for the project. David Gibson, Thames Sailing Barge Trust, also offered to help.

Actions:

- Nicky Spurr to speak with Apprenticeship Team at Essex CC
- DG to establish contact with LM
- RGE to share CCT Project Template with LM

10. CCT Project Timelines

- In the absence of Lew Schnurr, ME suggested that Heybridge Basin Public Conveniences be included on the CCT Project List. BB commented that the infrastructure was likely to still be in place for services to the car park, but the project would need external funding. AF suggested that it could be a joint project between the District and Parish.
- The meeting discussed the use of the 'Community Toilets' project, which enabled businesses to reduce their NDR liability by offering facilities for use by the general public. It was understood that there had been little take-up by the private sector. RC commented that the Heybridge Lock facility was very costly to maintain and wouldn't be suitable for general public use.

Actions:

- RGE to include Heybridge Basin Public Conveniences on the CCT Project List
- BB to report back on the District Council's position at the next CCT meeting

11. Newsletter

- RGE circulated a written update from Marian Elsdon. PJ was keen to agree a name for the publication and *Tied Lines – Saltmarsh Coast* was suggested. It was proposed to produce a folded A4 document, perhaps sponsored by local businesses, which could be available from B&Bs, tourist offices and attractions. The publication would also be available in pdf and be carried on the tourist website. The sub-group would progress the project.

12. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- RGE explained that members of the Coastal Community Teams would also be asked to agree to a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU would set out how the Teams' worked with the Councils of Maldon, Rochford and Chelmsford; how they would satisfy all legislative, statutory and governance requirements, and how they would ensure that the CCT works with the direction given to them to it by the relevant committee of the Accountable Body.
- The MoU would also set out how the work of the CCTs report to the Planning and Licensing Committee who are empowered by the Council of the Accountable Body to direct the efforts and work of the CCT.
- The MoU would be made available at the AGM

13. Annual General Meeting arrangements

- RGE informed the Team that the next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting. The AGM would be followed by a General Meeting on a date to be agreed. The AGM would seek to elect a Management Team, which would then elect a chairman and vice chairman. Heybridge Parish Council kindly offered to host the meeting in their Plantation Hall, and MW would provide a list of available dates to RGE.

Actions:

- RGE to organise date and venue for the AGM.
- PJ to prepare the Chairman's Report for consideration at the AGM.

14. Other business

- It was suggested that the operator of the proposed Bradwell 'B' should be approached for project funding.
- Nicky Spurr invited project ideas from all CCT members which may be of interest to Essex County Council.

15. Date and location of next meeting

- To be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked Julia Bourn for hosting the meeting at Goldhanger Village Hall, and for providing refreshments.

Meeting Closed at 16.10.